

ORGANIC FARMING AND GREEN BUILDING AT LAKE CHAPALA

- CASE STUDY PROJECT: Rancho La Salud (Certified Organic)
- LOCATION: Ajijic-San Juan Cosala corridor, north shore Lake Chapala

Rancho La Salud	Certified Organic Farming (2009)	Conventional Farming (2008)	
Farmed Surface	0.5 Hectareas	0.5 Hectareas	
Crop	Cucumber	Cucumber	
Greenhouse	YES	NO	
Investment	120,000 usd	10,000 usd	12x
Costs	40,000 usd	20,000 usd	2x
Yield/yr	180,000 kgs	45,000 kgs	4x
Sales	100,000 usd	30,000 usd	3.3x
Profits	60,000 usd	10,000 usd	6x
Payback	2-3 years	Immediate	
Water Consumption	1,000 m3/yr	18,000 m3/yr	18x

RANCHO LA SALUD´s new endeavor:
Organic Farming Technology Transfer
to GREEN Building project at Lakeside.

BCS-OKO Garantie Gmbh guidelines:

1.Non-toxic inputs & supplies
2.Composting & Re-cycling
3.Water Efficiency
4.Accountability

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Criteria:

1.Innovation & Design Process
2.Location & Linkages
3.Sustainable Sites
4.Water Efficiency
5.Energy & Atmosphere
6.Materials & Resources
7.Indoor Environmental Quality
8.Awareness & Education



LESSONS LEARNED

- Emphasis on Self-sufficiency
- “Listen” to Nature (local flora & fauna)
- Avoid dependency on subsidies (private or public)
- Embrace third-party inspections
- Accept eco-friendly technology
- More Transformational vs Transactional Learning
- Follow your heart but consult with your head